

City of Santa Barbara
Neighborhood Improvement Program
Status Report

Progress, Challenges and Plans

Presented by
Neighborhood Improvement Task Force
May 3, 2007

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY.....	1
II. BACKGROUND ON THE PROGRAM AND TASK FORCE.....	3
A. Strategy.....	3
B. Better and Safer Neighborhoods.....	3
C. Neighborhood Improvement Task Force (NITF).....	3
D. City Tour I – Fall 2003.....	4
III. HIGHLIGHTS OF PROGRAM ACTIVITIES AND PROJECTS.....	5
A. Code Enforcement Cases.....	5
• Deluxe Trailer Park.....	5
• Mesa School Lane.....	6
• Arrellaga Street.....	6
• De la Vina Street.....	6
B. Graffiti Removal.....	7
• Adoption of Graffiti Ordinance.....	7
• Graffiti Truck.....	7
• Anapamu Pedestrian Bridge Project.....	7
• Graffiti Surveillance and Arrests.....	7
C. Shopping Cart Retrieval Program.....	8
D. Clean-Up Projects.....	8
• Alisos Street.....	8
• TV Hill.....	9
• Dwight Murphy Park.....	9
• Anapamu and Walnut Streets.....	9
• Andree Clark Bird Refuge to Los Patos Way.....	10
• Coronel Street.....	10
E. Restorative Policing and Police Enforcement.....	10
• Restorative Policing.....	10

• Storke Placita.....	10
• Tactical Patrol Enforcement.....	11
• Ortega Park Safety.....	11
• Ladera and Voluntario Streets.....	11
• Illegal Encampments.....	12
• Problems at Oak Park.....	12
F. Quick-Reference City Telephone Numbers.....	12
G. Street Sweeping.....	13
H. Casa Esperanza and Milpas Action Task Force.....	13
I. Linkages and Coordination.....	14
• Union Pacific Railroad.....	14
• Caltrans.....	14
• County of Santa Barbara.....	15
J. Capital Improvements Projects.....	15
• Community Gardens.....	15
• Punta Gorda and Voluntario Street Infrastructure Improvements.....	15
• Lower Westside/Coronel Street Linkage.....	16
• Coronel Street Bike Path.....	16
• Westside/Lower Westside Clean and Safe Neighborhoods.....	16
• Franklin Community Center/Library ADA Improvements.....	17
• Ortega Park Improvements.....	17
• Montecito Street Lighting.....	17
• Junipero Pedestrian Bridge Lighting.....	18
• MTD Bus Shelters.....	18
• Bohnett Park Expansion.....	18
K. Other Neighborhood Capital Projects	19
IV. CHALLENGES, CITY TOUR II AND PROACTIVE STRATEGIES.....	21
A. Ongoing Challenges.....	21
• Graffiti vandalism.....	21
• County's Flood Control District graffiti abatement.....	21
• Code Enforcement.....	21
• Homelessness.....	21
• Railroad corridor deaths.....	20
• Illegal encampments.....	21
• Environmental degradation.....	21
• Casa Esperanza.....	21
• Funds needed for public infrastructure.....	21

• Missing links.....	21
• Adopt-A-Block Program.....	22
• Targeted Priority Projects.....	22
• Storke Placita and De la Guerra Plaza.....	22
B. Successful Programs and Strategies.....	22
C. City Tour II.....	22
D. Adopt-A-Block Program.....	23
E. Three Sets of Targeted High Priorities.....	24
• Public Right of Way.....	24
• Building and Zoning /Code Enforcement.....	24
• Parks and Creeks.....	24
F. Full-Time Code Enforcement Officer.....	24
G. Partnership with Union Pacific Railroad.....	25
H. Partnership with Caltrans.....	25
V. CONCLUSION.....	27
VI. ATTACHMENTS.....	28
1. Target Neighborhoods	
2. Membership of the Neighborhood Improvement Task Force	
3. Examples of significant code enforcement cases	
• Deluxe Trailer Park	
• 2510 Mesa School Lane	
4. Graffiti truck	
5. Graffiti removal activity - Fiscal Year 2006-07	
6. Graffiti surveillance operations and arrests - news release	
7. Storke Placita wall	
8. Illegal encampments	
9. Quick-Reference City Telephone Numbers	
10. Examples of Community Development Block Grant-funded Projects	
• Yanonali, Rancheria, and Pilgrim Terrace Community Gardens	
• Punta Gorda and Voluntario Streets	
• Coronel Street Linkage	
11. Targeted Neighborhood Capital Projects from Other Programs	
12. Public Right-of-Way Targeted Projects	
13. Building and Zoning Enforcement Targeted Projects	
14. Parks and Creeks Targeted Projects	

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In late 2003, the City of Santa Barbara launched the Neighborhood Improvement Program to rectify long-held concerns in neighborhoods. With City Council support and the creation of an interdepartmental Neighborhood Improvement Task Force, the City began taking action to aggressively address and resolve these problems.

While updates have been presented to Council on individual projects, this is the first comprehensive status report since the inception of the program. The report includes:

- Background on the Neighborhood Improvement Program (NIP) and the Neighborhood Improvement Task Force (NITF)
- Accomplishments and challenges of the Neighborhood Improvement Program
- Highlights of current projects and activities
- Status report on the areas visited in City Tour I
- Overview of City Tour II
- Proposed strategies to be more proactive
- Future projects and activities

The first phase of the Neighborhood Improvement Program has been successful. Neighborhoods are looking better and conditions have improved. City departments are achieving positive results by working as well-coordinated teams. Notable accomplishments are:

- TV Hill - once plagued with illegal encampments, makeshift stoves and flammable fuels, abandoned vehicles, drug paraphernalia debris and other homesteading equipment – is now secured
- The dilapidated and unsafe housing conditions at Deluxe Trailer Park have been eliminated
- Punta Gorda and South Voluntario Streets now have sidewalks, curbs, gutters and improved lighting for added safety
- Alisos Street at Highway 101 -- a future site of a freeway interchange -- has been cleared of debris, and the on-ramp has been improved
- A financial memorandum of understanding has been established with Union Pacific to clean up, maintain, and improve safety conditions along the railroad corridor
- The working relationship with Caltrans is as strong as ever -- Caltrans has been a true partner in our clean-up efforts

In addition, faced with limited resources, the Neighborhood Improvement Task Force launched an aggressive campaign to compete for and secure more than \$2 million in grant funds, from various sources.

In the next phase, staff plans to be proactive in remedying conditions seen during City Tour II. Anticipate more accomplishments going forward:

- The Adopt-A-Block Program will be central to forging an alliance with neighborhoods and residents
- Targeted high priority projects will help us zero-in on recurring and major problems
- A newly hired code enforcement officer dedicated to the Neighborhood Improvement Task Force will focus on properties showing serious decline and in need of maintenance

The NITF will also continue with strategies and programs that have proven successful during the first three years of the program. These include:

- Clean-up programs involving the City's departments of Police, Public Works, Parks and Recreation, plus other partners
- Coordinated efforts between the Community Development Department and the City Attorney's Office to resolve code enforcement problems, with litigation if necessary
- An aggressive and responsive graffiti removal program
- Expansion of the Street Sweeping Program until our objective of sweeping 85% of the City is achieved in Fiscal Year 2009
- Shopping Cart Retrieval Program to increase the level of business participation to recover abandoned shopping carts
- Updating and distributing the "Quick-Reference Numbers" list in English and Spanish so that people know where to call for services
- The Restorative Policing Program to help the chronically homeless
- Continued evaluations of our policies, procedures and ordinances to ensure that they meet our needs

II. BACKGROUND ON THE PROGRAM AND TASK FORCE

The Neighborhood Improvement Program was prompted by three key factors:

- City Council's commitment to improve neighborhoods
- Arrival of a new City Administrator who noted inconsistent and neglected services in certain neighborhoods
- Input from neighborhood associations, study groups, and others wanting to improve neighborhood conditions

A. Strategy

Challenged with budget constraints and limited resources, City staff launched a strategy to address neighborhood concerns. The strategy:

- Focuses on neighborhoods with deficient infrastructure and services, while continuing to address Citywide needs (Attachment 1)
- Re-structures the delivery of services by our Public Works, Parks and Recreation, Community Development, Fire, and Police Departments to work better and smarter as a team
- Secures additional funding for neighborhood improvements with an increased focus on previously untapped grant funds
- Increases building and zoning enforcement
- Encourages volunteer efforts by residents and community groups
- Centralizes administration of the program in the City Administrator's Office with the goal of transferring the program to another department in the second phase of the program

B. Better and Safer Neighborhoods

In summary, improvements resulting from the Neighborhood Improvement Program include:

- Repair and/or construction of sidewalks, curbs and gutters, and installation of street lights
- Safer, more appealing neighborhoods with better maintenance, such as tree trimming, street sweeping, and shopping cart retrieval
- Removal of graffiti from public and private properties
- Elimination of illegal trespassing and the accompanying fire hazard conditions that could spark a devastating wildland fire

C. Neighborhood Improvement Task Force (NITF)

The NITF plans, organizes, implements and monitors all projects. Attachment 2 shows the membership of the NITF. But when it comes to doing the work in the

trenches, the Task Force relies upon the many partners not often seen at City Council meetings. Our partners include:

- Public Works and Parks and Recreation crews that do the major clean-ups and heavy lifting
- Zoning and Code Enforcement staff from Community Development who issue and enforce corrective action notices
- Police officers walking their beats issuing citations or referring clients for services
- Fire prevention staff who inspect for and defuse fire risks
- City crews who remove graffiti, trim trees, install sidewalks, curbs, and gutters and sweep streets
- City attorneys who challenge and admonish scofflaws in court
- Many other staff that provide support along the way.

D. City Tour I – Fall 2003

In the fall of 2003, City Councilmembers, NIP staff and media representatives toured Santa Barbara neighborhoods to pinpoint areas in need of improvement. Driving some 11 miles, the Councilmembers:

- Visited Alisos Street near the Highway 101 on-ramp, the site of an RV fire, illegal encampments, and substandard housing
- Witnessed conditions firsthand at TV Hill, a private property plagued with decades of trespassing violations, illegal encampments, and environmental hazards, including a serious risk of a wildfire that could engulf the hill and spread to residential areas
- Saw the substandard and deteriorating living conditions at Deluxe Trailer Park on Punta Gorda Street, with missing sidewalks, curbs, and gutters
- Observed graffiti, shopping carts, dumping, missing sidewalk links and other conditions needing correction

Following this eye-opening tour, Neighborhood Improvement Task Force teams immediately set to work!

III. HIGHLIGHTS OF PROGRAM ACTIVITIES AND PROJECTS

A. Code Enforcement Cases

The Neighborhood Improvement Program relies on the City Attorney's Office to pursue enforcement actions against property owners who commit major violations of the City's building, fire or zoning codes. Partnering with the Community Development and Fire Departments, the City Attorney's Office has achieved positive results.

- DELUXE TRAILER PARK – Hazardous Living Conditions Resolved: In late 2003, NITF members inspected and identified many state and City code violations at the Deluxe Trailer Park. The City began enforcement actions against the trailer park owners as a result of serious health violations and safety hazards, including the threat of fire that could have engulfed the trailer park and the surrounding community. However, jurisdiction over code enforcement of the trailer parks rests with the State of California, Department of Housing and Community Development. With serious understaffing, trailer parks are seldom monitored by state officials and bad conditions tend to worsen over time. For that reason we requested the state to defer enforcement and legal action to the City Attorney. The state eventually provided the City with the authority to enforce against the park.

Since many of the residents faced displacement and could not afford legal representation to negotiate fair relocation agreements, the City Council awarded a \$50,000 grant to the Legal Aid Foundation of Santa Barbara County to represent the tenants. The Legal Aid Foundation, on behalf of the tenants, negotiated substantial financial relocation agreements with the park owners.

Over a period of many months, the City made numerous attempts to achieve voluntary compliance from the park owners. However, after many broken promises and delays by the park owners, the City Attorney's Office filed legal action in Santa Barbara Superior Court in October of 2006.

Since the filing, the City Attorney's Office has actively prosecuted this action against the owners of the park in a series of compliance deadlines ordered by the court. As a result, all dilapidated, uninhabitable vacant trailers have been removed from the park and most of the park's residents were relocated with financial relocation packages. Additionally, the City successfully obtained orders from the court requiring abatement of all electrical, gas and plumbing hazards at the park identified by the City during the removal of the trailers. As of March 26, 2007, all violations upon the property were deemed to be abated by the City's Building and Safety Division. With the unsafe conditions removed, the park owners are exploring options for use of the property.

- MESA SCHOOL LANE – Abatement Underway: The property at 2510 Mesa School Lane presented the City with one of the most severe cases of single family home health and safety code violations experienced in recent history. Violations were extensive and pervasive throughout the yard area and within the interior of the residence, involving abandoned vehicles, excessive, wayward shrubbery, debris and substandard, dangerous living conditions such as collapsed flooring and stairways, along with widespread infestation.

The City Attorney's Office filed a civil complaint in March 2006 and successfully obtained a Motion for Summary Judgment at the end of 2006, with the court issuing its final order on February 1, 2007.

The City Attorney's Office worked closely with the City's Building and Safety Division and the property owner's attorney to develop an initial abatement plan concerning the exterior of the property. In the course of this abatement, several refuse dumpsters were filled with shrubbery, debris, and junk and were removed from the property. Hazardous materials were transported from the property to the City's ABOP Collection Center. Further illustrating the extent of the violations, seven automobiles were uncovered in the course of the abatement. It took three days for City-hired contractors to complete the abatement of the exterior by April 13, 2007. In the following weeks, the City Attorney's Office will be seeking recovery of the costs of the abatement.

- ARRELLAGA STREET – Property Cleaned and Secured: Neighbors near 815-817 West Arrellaga Street complained about trash, junk, rodents, trespassing by squatters and general dilapidation of the properties.

The City Attorney's Office filed a civil complaint, obtained an injunction, and a lien against the property owner at the time. The City "red-tagged" both houses and conducted a clean-up on the properties. Shortly thereafter, the property changed ownership and it appeared that all of the violations would be abated. However, the Building and Safety Division has since had to board up the windows and secure the property again to prevent illegal access. The City Attorney's Office subsequently filed against the new property owner, but has recently learned that ownership may have changed again. The City Attorney's Office has filed a notice of "*lis pendens*" on the property, effectively notifying any potential financial lender or purchaser that the City has an active enforcement case involving the two properties. Upon confirming current ownership, the City intends to file a new complaint in Superior Court.

- DE LA VINA STREET– Violations Resolved: The property at 421 De la Vina was an abandoned and dilapidated house. Transients, including drug abusers, were using the property. After the filing of a civil complaint by the City Attorney's Office, imposition of civil penalties and a strict abatement schedule by the City Attorney's Office in February 2006, the property owner

abated all outstanding violations by the required deadline of April 1, 2006. Attachment 3 shows examples of conditions in two enforcement cases.

B. Graffiti Removal

- ADOPTION OF GRAFFITI ORDINANCE: On March 8, 2005 the City Council adopted an ordinance to combat graffiti. The ordinance sets forth requirements to remove graffiti quickly from public and private properties. As part of this effort the Public Works Department was authorized to purchase an \$85,000 truck fully equipped with graffiti removal equipment and to hire a full-time staff person to remove graffiti.
- GRAFFITI TRUCK: With a new specially designed graffiti removal truck (Attachment 4) and Senior Streets Maintenance Worker Georgina Lopez leading the program, the City's Graffiti Removal Program has been in operation for almost two years. The "graffiti hotline" – (805) 897-2513 – receives an average of five calls each day, with more calls in the summer months than during the rainy season. Graffiti is being removed early in the morning before most people go to work, which contributes to the program's success. Attachment 5 shows graffiti removal activity in Fiscal Year 2006-07.
- ANAPAMU PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE PROJECT: In October 2003, the NITF, in partnership with Looking Good Santa Barbara (LGSB) and Public Works Streets Division staff, worked with Calvary Chapel to restore the Anapamu Pedestrian Bridge and clean up the surrounding neighborhood. The Bridge, a major thoroughfare providing pedestrian access from Downtown to the Westside, had long been plagued with graffiti and unsanitary conditions.

On the day of the event, Calvary Chapel turned out with approximately 400 volunteers. Public Works provided the paint and Calvary Chapel arranged for free lunch for the volunteers, staff and neighbors. The bridge was painted with two new standard colors (brown and green) that became a standard by which all City structures are now painted to avoid a patchwork effect.

The evening after the event, the Police Department coordinated a "sting" as they expected the blank canvas would attract vandals. The operation was a success and vandals were arrested that same evening.

Since the event, City Streets staff has maintained the bridge and water lines have been installed near the bridge to make maintenance easier. The bridge is now a pleasant walk for many City residents.

- GRAFFITI SURVEILLANCE AND ARRESTS: With graffiti becoming an increasing problem, Police officers spent three nights of surveillance in June 2006 attempting to nab taggers in graffiti prone areas. On the third night, two taggers were caught red-handed spray painting graffiti on the Micheltorena

Street Bridge. One tagger, an adult, was booked into County jail and the other, a juvenile, was booked at juvenile hall.

In October 2006, faced with a rise in graffiti and gang vandalism, Police officers targeted and arrested seven suspects connected to graffiti damage at 27 different locations. These arrests made a significant dent in graffiti vandalism. Attachment 6 is a news release related to these arrests.

C. Shopping Cart Retrieval Program

The Shopping Cart Retrieval Program began the first quarter of 2005 to remove unsightly abandoned shopping carts from Santa Barbara streets. The City contracted with an agency to retrieve shopping carts at \$3 per shopping cart with a not-to-exceed monthly cost of \$1,200. Efforts included identifying the cart owners and encouraging businesses to sign-up for the program. The first year was challenging with few businesses joining but sign-ups have since increased.

The City's program costs have dropped from a monthly high of \$475 for retrieving 158 shopping carts, to only an occasional fee for retrieving a few carts. Participating businesses are making up the difference and the contractor has reduced the non-member companies from about eleven to four.

D. Clean-Up Projects

The Police, Public Works, and Parks and Recreation Departments staff have teamed up on many major clean-up projects since the NIP began. An estimated 1,000 tons of refuse has been removed from City streets and residential areas. This is in addition to the 1,600 tons collected from residential and commercial area street sweeping.

Abundant illegal campsites along the railroad corridor and in creek beds, beneath bridges and in other secluded areas pose major clean-up challenges. These extremely unsafe, substandard living conditions sometimes result in deaths. Prior to any clean-up involving encampments, Police officers comb the area to make personal contact with persons living in the makeshift camps. This allows individuals time to move their belongings and avoid having their property discarded during the clean-up. At the same time, Police officers hand out information on the availability of shelters and social services in the community.

The following are examples of some of these major clean-up efforts:

- ALISOS STREET Alisos Street near the 101 on-ramp was the site of an RV fire, exposing other cases of substandard dwellings, illegal camping, drug use, garbage and hazardous materials. A 30-member crew from Public Works and Parks and Recreation, with the support from the Fire Department, Police Department, Caltrans and the California Highway Patrol teamed-up to

fill 12, 40-yard roll off dumpsters – removing 84 tons of debris from the site. Approximately 90% of the debris was recycled. This portion of Alisos Street, along with other adjacent parcels, is planned by Caltrans to become part of a new south bound off-ramp and south bound on-ramp for the Highway 101 and Milpas Street Interchange.

- TV HILL: For decades, TV Hill had been a nagging problem and high fire risk compounded by ongoing “cat-and-mouse” enforcement. Countless efforts to clear fire hazards and illegal encampments were for naught, with the problems returning time and time again.

With the Fire Marshall leading the affront, City staff joined forces to aggressively require the property owner to clean and secure the area. While the City’s efforts were in full motion the property changed hands. The City again moved in with an aggressive program that enforced trespassing laws to rid the area of illegal encampments and laid the groundwork for the new owner to secure the property. The new owner cleaned the area, removed stoves, flammable fuels and toxic materials, propane tanks, drug lab items, furniture, power generators, drug paraphernalia, an abandoned car, sofas, tables, chairs, tents and other furnishings from makeshift camp sites. All in all about 92 tons of debris and brush was removed at a cost of \$137,000. A new fence cost an additional \$186,000. To accomplish the clean-up the new owners employed 25 people for 45 days. The area is now regularly patrolled by private security. Recent breaches in the fence have been found and immediately repaired to discourage intruders

- DWIGHT MURPHY PARK: Between January 2004 and February 2006 five people were killed along the freeway and railroad corridor. One of the more critical areas is the stretch from Dwight Murphy Park to the Andree Clark Bird Refuge. This area was heavily overgrown with vegetation, providing a hideaway for illegal camp sites, drug use and other criminal activity.

Twelve staff from Public Works, Police and Caltrans removed six major encampments along this stretch of the Highway 101 and railroad corridor in 2004. Public Works and Union Pacific raised the vegetation canopy, added large rocks as parking barriers and increased warning, and installed “No Trespassing” signage along the corridor. More than nine tons of garbage waste and vegetation were removed from this area. The raised canopy has improved the view, making increased Police patrolling more effective and efficient.

- ANAPAMU AND WALNUT STREETS: Public Works and Parks and Recreation Staff cleaned up three major illegal encampments along the Union Pacific right of way in 2006, removing approximately 13 tons of refuse.

- ANDREE CLARK BIRD REFUGE TO LOS PATOS WAY: Eighteen City staff carried out a major clean-up along this stretch of the railroad corridor from the Bird Refuge to Los Patos Way in 2004, removing four large illegal encampments. A eucalyptus grove that sheltered a large encampment was also opened-up to eliminate hideaway conditions. The removal of over four tons of garbage and vegetation from the area provided a more attractive space and a better view for Police enforcement.
- CORONEL STREET: Staff from the Parks Division removed from the hillside several 100-foot tall Eucalyptus trees that were deemed unsafe. A major clean up also was completed along the pathway and hillside leading up to McKinley Elementary School.

E. Restorative Policing and Police Enforcement

Safe neighborhoods are a primary objective of the Neighborhood Improvement Program (NIP). Police officers are important members of interdepartmental teams and in some cases are in the lead with support provided from other departments. The following are summary descriptions of some of the more significant projects and activities with a focus on neighborhood safety.

- RESTORATIVE POLICING: The Criminal Justice System's approach is to focus on changing behavior by going through a linear punishment process. In contrast, restorative policing focuses on persuading people to make a change in their lives. Restorative policing is a collaboration of organizations which interconnect to form a broader network of resources for the homeless mentally ill in our community. Police Officers are often the first to respond to calls for service involving the homeless mentally ill, with officers striving to maintain public safety, reduce harm to the individual, and restore the individual to the community. Restorative Policing is an ongoing process, with Police Beat Officers reporting success in diverting individuals from the criminal justice system into mental, medical and social services. It requires patience and compassion. The program focuses on the chronically homeless population where successes, even small changes, can make a substantial difference and improve the quality of life for some – restorative policing does make a difference.
- STORKE PLACITA: During the summer of 2006, Storke Placita was singled out as a problem area for focused intervention by the NITF. The Placita became a source of increased complaints from adjacent businesses and passersby who were faced with confrontational and rude behavior from mostly transient individuals. The problems were exacerbated by loitering, aggressive panhandling, and drug abusers.

The Police Department increased enforcement in the area, issued citations and made arrests for a variety of criminal violations. Public Works and Parks and Recreation Department staff improved signage prohibiting dogs-off-leash, improved area lighting and trimmed vegetation to remove hiding places for drug users and camping.

A wall at the Placita entrance on State Street frequented by routine violators was modified to make sitting more difficult. These alterations resulted in a more attractive design that makes it uncomfortable to use the wall as a bench (Attachment 7).

- TACTICAL PATROL ENFORCEMENT - Railroad Corridor: A directed patrol enforcement program along the railway corridor began in June 2005 involving the Santa Barbara Police Department Tactical Patrol Force, Union Pacific Police, Caltrans, Parks and Streets Division Staff. The plan was to enforce all laws along the railway corridor and educate those who frequent this area about the dangers of illegally using the corridor for camping, walkways, trash dumps, and trespassing. Seventy citations were issued for railroad trespassing, along with eight Municipal Code violations, three Penal Code violations, and completion of 42 Field Interview cards. Santa Barbara Survival Guides were also provided, listing various resources for the homeless in Santa Barbara.

This joint effort successfully eliminated many illegal encampments, reduced graffiti, and removed overgrown brush. The Tactical Patrol Force continues to heavily patrol and enforce violations along the railway as activity in the area remains high. Union Pacific has not provided an officer to patrol with Tactical Patrol Force once a month as requested.

- ORTEGA PARK SAFETY: Over the past two years, Police officers have been working with the Parks and Recreation Department staff on solutions to restore Ortega Park and make it safe for families by ridding the area of gambling, drug use, illegal encampments, prostitution and misuse of park facilities. Successfully tackling these problems one at a time involved trimming bushes and shrubs, and knocking down a wall to improve visibility from all angles for law enforcement. In addition, the City is exploring the possibility of installing a camera to electronically patrol the area.
- LADERA AND VOLUNTARIO STREETS - Neighborhood Watch: Police officers worked in these two neighborhoods for months to establish trust and challenge residents to take back their neighborhoods. Tenants from the Ladera Apartments were the first neighborhood group to use a camera system to help deter gangs, discourage dumping and restore order to the corner of Ladera and Gutierrez Streets.

As part of the remodeling of the apartments at 229 South Voluntario Street, Police officers worked with the tenants to install a second crime monitoring camera and provided neighborhood watch-type education and assistance.

- **ILLEGAL ENCAMPMENTS:** The Tactical Patrol Force and crews from the Public Works Department conducted enforcement actions and clean-up projects in 2006 involving five large illegal encampments. Two of these encampments were located under the freeway overpasses at Quarantina and Calle Cesar Chavez Streets in the Lower Eastside industrial neighborhood. On the Westside, one encampment was located on the south side of Carrillo Street between Chino Street and Miramonte Drive and another was located on Loma Alta between Coronel and San Andres Streets. The largest camp was located at 100 Garden Street.

City crews cleaned up approximately three tons of trash from these sites including mattresses, stoves and drug paraphernalia. Even after advance warnings, Police Officers cited four subjects and wrote six parking citations.

Attachment 8 shows examples of conditions in illegal encampments.

- **PROBLEMS AT OAK PARK – Amended Open Container Policy:** Parks and Recreation and Police Department staff conducted a series of public meetings with Oak Park neighbors and Oak Park event organizers in response to increased criminal activity in Oak Park. Neighborhood residents were experiencing and reporting increasing incidents of drunkenness, thefts, illegal trespassing and encampments. The results of the public meetings were presented to the Parks and Recreation Commission which held two meetings to focus on the issues leading to their recommendation to the City Council that Oak Park be a no alcohol park. In January 2007 the City Council designated Oak Park as a no alcohol park, except by permit. As part of this process, the beer garden policy was revisited and new criteria were adopted to allow and regulate alcohol sales for permitted events.

F. Quick-Reference City Telephone Numbers

Working with community groups and City residents, Task Force members often found that individuals didn't know whom to call to ask questions and/or request services. While driving throughout Santa Barbara, even some City crews, Police officers, and Firefighters did not always have readily available telephone numbers to report illegal dumping, encampments, or other conditions that needed action. To rectify this, the Neighborhood Improvement Task Force produced a two-sided card with lists of City of Santa Barbara frequently asked for telephone numbers (Attachment 9).

One side is in English and the other Spanish, with phone numbers for reporting graffiti, pot-holes and illegal dumping, plus emergency and non-emergency

numbers for the Police and Fire Departments, street repairs, and other services. The cards are carried by City employees, and distributed when staff meets with neighborhood groups. Annual or as-needed updates keep the phone numbers current.

G. Street Sweeping

The City began the Westside residential street sweeping program in January 2002 as a pilot program. The program was expanded to the Eastside in October 2003 and to neighborhoods east and west of State Street in October 2004. Hidden Valley and the Lower Mesa were added in October 2006.

Currently, it is estimated that annually, the street sweeping program removes about 972 tons of debris from approximately 200 curb miles of residential streets in the City. In addition we estimate that we remove about 637 tons of debris annually from approximately 70 curb miles of commercial streets in the City.

Starting in July 2007, the Program is scheduled to expand to include an additional 43 curb miles of residential streets and 63 curb miles in July 2008. In the future, tree pruning by the Parks and Recreation Department and street sweeping by the Public Works Department will be synchronized for better results. Approximately 376.2 curb miles will be swept when the program is fully implemented in Fiscal Year 2009.

H. Casa Esperanza and Milpas Action Task Force

In February 2004, the City Council approved permits to increase the year-round bed capacity at Casa Esperanza Homeless Shelter from thirty to one-hundred beds. The Council also directed Casa Esperanza, in conjunction with City staff and an expanded Neighborhood Advisory Committee, to develop and implement a comprehensive plan to address a number of problems in the neighborhood surrounding the shelter. The City staff that joined this effort were also key members of the NITF.

Council's direction led to the formation of the Milpas Action Task Force (MATF) which, over a six-month period, developed a strategic plan that identified twenty-eight issues and 44 action plans for implementation by the City, Casa Esperanza, the Milpas Association and others in the community. The work involved with the implementation of these and related action plans have been ongoing. A progress report was provided by Casa Esperanza to the Planning Commission last fall showing considerable progress by all parties to improve conditions in the neighborhood.

Beyond the scope of action outlined by the MATF, Casa Esperanza created "*STEP-Up!*" (*Service, Training and Education Program*), a job development and community outreach program. In this program, Casa Esperanza employs up to

five homeless individuals to: improve cleanliness in the immediate Milpas Street corridor; provide outreach between the shelter, the homeless and local businesses; provide a means for homeless shelter members to attempt to persuade non-shelter members off the immediate neighborhood streets; and, provide a first step for a homeless person to receive supported employment, leading to a permanent job and housing. In the last year, the following outcomes have been recorded:

- *Cleanliness: STEP-Up! workers removed twelve tons of trash from the streets in the Milpas corridor from May 2005 – April 2006*
- *Business Outreach: STEP-Up! workers have engaged with 35 businesses and have distributed literature at these locations*
- *Homeless Outreach: The team maintains twice-weekly on-going contact with at least 150 homeless individuals. To this date, 31 individuals have accessed services as a result of outreach and five individual/family units have been placed in permanent housing*
- *Pre-Vocational Employment: Between April 2005 and March 2006, “STEP-Up!” workers logged 3,577 hours in the field; 46 individuals participated in the program; and, 32.5% received local employment after leaving the program*

I. Linkages and Coordination

Many City residents don't know, and frankly don't care, who owns the public right-of-way, they just want to see it clean and safe. The most visible areas with overlapping jurisdictions involve: the six miles of Highway 101 and Union Pacific railroad corridors, which lay parallel as they course through the City; and the County Flood Control District's Mission Creek channel. For this reason, the NITF targeted these three agencies to improve linkages and coordination.

- UNION PACIFIC RAILROAD – Memorandum of Understanding
On April 17, 2007, the City Council approved a Memorandum of Understanding with Union Pacific Railroad. Under the terms of the agreement, Union Pacific will commit \$24,000 for the remainder of FY 2007 to partner with the City of Santa Barbara to do enforcement and conduct monthly clean-up projects along the six mile stretch of the railroad corridor.

Entering into an agreement with Union Pacific to jointly tackle problems along the railroad corridor was a major objective of the Neighborhood Improvement Task Force and one that we single out as a major accomplishment in partnering with others.

- CALTRANS – Highway 101 Corridor – The City of Santa Barbara is proud of the working relationship with the State of California. We have partnered on such projects as the Alisos Street clean-up, Union Pacific Railroad cleanup near Los Patos and Cabrillo Blvd/Hot Springs, and enforcement at Deluxe Trailer Park, among others. The California Highway Patrol has assisted us

with road closures to provide for a quicker and safer environment for our crews. And we have combined our crews and equipment to create synergistic results.

- COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA – Graffiti Abatement - We have worked closely with the County of Santa Barbara on many fronts, such as the Westside storm drain project. Last week we were successful in convincing the County Flood Control District to take steps to remove the unsightly graffiti from the walls of the Mission Creek flood control channel.

J. Capital Improvement Projects

Since Fiscal Year 2005, the NITF has been successful in securing over \$2.1 million for neighborhood improvement capital projects. Funding has been secured from the following sources:

CDBG	\$1,089,587
State Workforce Housing	\$ 629,925
State Park Funds	\$ 201,000
Private	\$ 26,000
General Fund	<u>\$ 175,000</u>
Total	<u>\$2,121,512</u>

These funds have a substantial synergistic effect when combined in areas where another \$9 million from RDA, Creeks, and other state grants have been or are earmarked to be invested.

Following are summary descriptions of the capital projects undertaken to improve the public infrastructure in the target neighborhoods.

- COMMUNITY GARDENS (\$56,000 - CDBG)
Funds were used to improve the Yanonali, Rancheria, and Pilgrim Terrace community gardens. These gardens now have permanent bordered garden plots, wide pathways, kiosks, sheds, benches and raised plots for persons with disabilities.
- PUNTA GORDA AND VOLUNTARIO STREETS INFRASTRUCTURE (\$286,250 - CDBG and \$124,063 - State Workforce Housing Funds)
The Voluntario and Punta Gorda Streets area includes mobile home parks, single family homes and apartment buildings located in a low-lying area that experiences flooding during heavy downpours due to the natural drainage profile.

The south and north sides of the block lacked curbs, gutters and sidewalks, forcing residents to park off-street on a dirt parkway. Without sidewalks,

pedestrians were forced to weave in and out of parked vehicles to reach their homes. Muddy conditions from the undeveloped south side of the road generated a public hazard for cars and pedestrians. In addition, street lighting was limited along Punta Gorda Street to two existing lights, 500 feet apart, providing inadequate lighting.

Curbs, gutters, sidewalks and pedestrian-level street lighting have been installed on Punta Gorda and Voluntario Streets. A bus shelter also has been installed on Punta Gorda.

- LOWER WESTSIDE/CORONEL STREET LINKAGE (\$172,000 – CDBG)

The Lower Westside and Coronel Street linkage area had significant infrastructure problems, some of which compromised safety and pedestrian traffic. Funds were used to design, engineer and construct improvements.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant sidewalks, driveways, curbs and gutters, drainage systems, a retaining wall, lighting, fencing and landscaping on the hillside and on the path up to McKinley School are completed.

In a next phase project, landscaping and a bike path will be completed. Residents in this area with a high concentration of children, many who are low-income, now have a safe pedestrian access to McKinley School and Santa Barbara City College.

- CORONEL STREET BIKE PATH (\$125,000 - CDBG)

A safe and accessible route for school children and their families who travel to McKinley School on a daily basis is an objective of the NITF. Consequently, the NITF applied for and received CDBG funds for infrastructure improvements. The project will add street lighting, landscaping, a bike path and pedestrian sidewalk in an overflow parking lot, to be repaved, that links Coronel and Ladera Streets. This project is under construction and is expected to be completed in May 2007.

- WESTSIDE/LOWER WESTSIDE CLEAN AND SAFE NEIGHBORHOODS (\$64,200 – CDBG)

The Westside/Lower Westside faced open access to the railroad tracks, an area frequently used by pedestrians. Therefore, the NITF focused on improving safety by creating a safety zone and improving landscaping between the railroad corridor and neighborhoods.

Fencing has been erected and landscaping work has been completed along nine Lower Westside and Westside streets to create a safety barrier between the neighborhoods and railroad tracks. The neighborhoods are safer and more attractive and as a result, more likely to significantly discourage illegal

dumping that has plagued the neighborhood in the proximity of the railroad tracks.

- FRANKLIN COMMUNITY CENTER/LIBRARY ADA IMPROVEMENTS (\$42,000 - CDBG and \$298,862 - State Workforce Housing Funds)

CDBG Funds were used to install security lights and interior/exterior bilingual ADA directional signage and to renovate the irrigation system. The next phase of the project involves the design and construction of major improvements to the Franklin Neighborhood Center to meet ADA accessibility standards. The costs of this project are being shared with the County of Santa Barbara as it operates a range of health care programs at the center. The agreement with the county is expected to be completed by the end of June 2007 and the project is expected to be completed by 2009.

As a result of this project, the Franklin Community Center and the Library now have increased security in the parking lots, improved ADA accessibility and attractive landscaping.

- ORTEGA PARK IMPROVEMENTS (\$60,487 - CDBG)

Ortega Park fell pray to illegal gambling, drug use, prostitution and other misuses of the park. For those reasons, as part of the NIP, Police officers and Parks and Recreation Department staff embarked on strategies to take back the park to make it possible for families to return and enjoy the park in a safe environment. While law enforcement proceeded on a separate track the NITF explored infrastructure improvements to better conditions. CDBG funds were used to install new light fixtures, remove a wall and shade structure to improve visibility from all angles for law enforcement and to reconstruct exterior restroom screen walls. These changes increased security, improved lighting and removed visual impairments to law enforcement. The last phase of this project includes the installation of a security camera to electronically patrol the area.

- MONTECITO STREET LIGHTING (\$133,650 – CDBG and \$107,000 State Work Force Housing Funds)

Montecito Street, from Milpas Street to Soledad Street, is a high-volume pedestrian corridor that for years has lacked adequate street lighting for night-time pedestrian travel. CDBG funds are being used to design and install better pedestrian-level street lighting along this stretch.

The design is complete. The street lights have been purchased. The project has been put out to bid and is expected to be completed by June 30, 2007. As a result, the neighborhood will have improved pedestrian street lighting making pedestrian and motorist travel safer in this densely populated low-income neighborhood.

- JUNIPERO PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE LIGHTING (\$100,000 - State Workforce Housing Funds)

The Junipero Pedestrian Bridge extends over the Highway 101 and railroad corridors connecting the Oak Park and Westside neighborhoods. The project involves installation of solar powered lighting along the bridge walkway to improve safety for the many people who utilize this bridge on a daily basis. The project is scheduled to be completed by the end of summer 2007.

- MTD BUS SHELTERS (\$100,000 - State Workforce Housing Funds - Proposed for FY 2007)

With this project, expected to be funded by the State in November, the City plans to install six new bus shelters, three on MTD Lines 1 and 2 on the East Side and three on the West Side, in the following locations:

- South Voluntario Street at Indio Muerto Street (outbound toward Carpinteria Street)
- Milpas Street at Montecito Street (outbound toward Anapamu Street)
- San Andres Street at Sola Street (inbound toward Carrillo Street)
- Carrillo Street at Bath Street (outbound toward US 101)
- San Andres Street at Anapamu Street (inbound toward Carrillo Street)
- South Salinas Street at Clifton Street (outbound toward South 101)

- BOHNETT PARK EXPANSION

San Andres Street, at the west frontage of the Park, is the main north-south artery running through the Westside. With the exception of this project, every lot on this mile-long street is developed with apartments, single-family homes, and businesses. Bohnett Park is the sole park serving this area and it has been recognized for many years that the Westside has had an ongoing need for more parkland. The Westside neighborhood is a densely populated portion of the community. At a ratio of one acre of parkland per 3,885 people, the area is well below national, state and local park standards for park space per population.

This project provides improvements to the upper portion of Bohnett Park, including construction of an artistically interpreted “floor plan” of a house to provide seating, a tile art project produced by neighborhood children, lawn and landscaped beds of native plants, paths and benches, interpretive signage regarding urban creeks, and small-scale sculptures for young children.

This project is in its final design phase and will be constructed with funds from the following sources:

- \$150,000 CDBG (FY 2006-07)
- \$175,000 General Fund (Parks Capital Program)
- \$201,000 Grant Funds (California Park and Recreation)

- \$26,000 Bohnett Family (for art elements)

Attachment 10 shows examples of grant-funded projects.

K. Other Neighborhood Capital Projects

In addition to the capital projects described above, a number of other capital projects, that benefit the NIP target neighborhoods, have recently been completed, are underway, or will be undertaken in the near future. Attachment 11 contains summary descriptions of these projects.

Total funding from other collateral projects is in excess of \$ 9 million dollars.

IV. CHALLENGES, CITY TOUR II AND PROACTIVE STRATEGIES

A. Ongoing Challenges

Although Santa Barbara is battling and reducing **graffiti vandalism** we don't expect it to go away. While we're making progress in City areas, we need to be vigilant to ensure that graffiti on the **County's Flood Control District** channel walls that meander through our City is promptly removed.

Code enforcement cases will continue to take time and effort to correct. As we correct conditions in one place we find problems in another. These are costly and labor intensive challenges for the Community Development and Police Departments and the City Attorney's Office. We will have our hands full with targeted enforcement cases next year.

There is no immediate end in sight to **homelessness**. In spite of the fact that 14.5% of our housing stock is considered "affordable," the high cost of housing in the region continues to put pressure on lower-income households and individuals. Homelessness is associated with **railroad corridor deaths, illegal encampments, and environmental degradation**. However, there is hope on the horizon. Current Countywide efforts and the recent approval of a ten year plan to end chronic homelessness ("*Bring Our Community Home*") offer model program strategies and clear challenges for collaborative community efforts that if embraced, should make a significant improvement.

While **Casa Esperanza** has made strides in solving neighborhood concerns, there is still much work to do. Unfortunately, it only takes one incident to spark opposition. We will need to continue to pay attention to the area to ensure neighborhood improvements do not deteriorate.

As with all municipalities, the **funds needed for public infrastructure** are significantly greater than resources available. Therefore, we need to continue to look for ways to work better and smarter, to synergistically optimize our scarce resources.

Missing links (sidewalks, curbs and gutters) are an example of a need that cannot be satisfied with existing limited resources. We have 122 miles of missing sidewalks throughout the City. This does not include the Riviera and similar areas where future sidewalks are unlikely. We have installed approximately seven miles of sidewalks since 2000. We have maintained an annual budget of \$400,000/year for the Sidewalk Infill Program since 2000. In the proposed Fiscal Year 2008 budget, this amount is proposed to be reduced to \$150,000, which will only allow for repair and maintenance of existing sidewalks. New sidewalk construction will depend on our ability to obtain grant funds for special projects.

With the completion of major projects like TV Hill, Punta Gorda Street, Deluxe Trailer Park and others, the next phase of the Neighborhood Improvement Program will focus on being more proactive.

New strategies will present different challenges. The start-up of a new program almost always needs adjustments. The ***Adopt-A-Block Program*** will present its own set of challenges. Similarly the “***Targeted Priority Projects*** for Creeks, Parks, Public Works and Code Enforcement” will demand a lot of energy and resources.

As a tourist destination we attract many people. Unfortunately we also receive our share of individuals who seasonally congregate around ***Storke Placita and De la Guerra Plaza***, often harassing residents and tourists alike. Although we have made changes to discourage inappropriate behavior at these locations we anticipate that added patrolling and law enforcement will be required to maintain a positive environment.

B. Successful Programs and Strategies

The NITF will continue with strategies and programs that have proved successful during the first three years of the program. These include:

- Coordinated clean-up programs involving the Police, Public Works, Parks and Recreation and other partners
- Coordinated efforts between the Community Development Department and the City Attorney’s Office to resolve, in the courts if necessary, code enforcement problems
- Aggressive and responsive Graffiti Removal Program
- The Shopping Cart Retrieval Program to sustain and increase the level of business participation
- Updating and distributing the “Quick-Reference City Telephone Numbers” list in English and Spanish so that people know where to call for services
- Expansion of the Street Sweeping Program until our objective of sweeping 85% of the City is achieved
- Restorative Policing Program to help people with mental illness, substance abuse or homelessness
- Continued evaluations of our policies, procedures and ordinances to ensure that they meet our needs
- Pursuing CDBG and other available funding to support capital improvements in the target neighborhoods

C. City Tour II

We launched the Neighborhood Improvement Program with “City Tour I.” The first tour allowed the City Council and staff to witness conditions in need of improvement. The eye-opening tour helped us all make a personal connection to

the work that needed to be done. “City Tour II” on May 3, 2007, will focus on conditions and projects that will be targeted for action as well as the positive results of the work of the Neighborhood Improvement Task Force. City Tour II includes visits to:

- Ortega Park
- National Guard Armory
- Milpas Corridor
- Franklin Center/Eastside Library/Franklin School
- Cacique and South Soledad Streets at Sycamore Creek
- Punta Gorda and South Voluntario Streets
- Cabrillo Ball Field/Rainbow Park
- Ladera Street / Coronel Bikepath
- West Figueroa and Anapamu Streets
- Bohnett Park
- Almond Avenue
- Mission Creek Corridor/County Flood Control channel in West Downtown
- Private Properties Targeted for Enforcement

D. Adopt-A-Block Program

At the heart of being more proactive in the next generation of the Neighborhood Improvement Program is the Adopt-A-Block Program. Our concept is patterned after the model used by Looking Good Santa Barbara. With the Adopt-A-Block program we hope to forge a partnership with neighborhood organizations and residents to improve cleanliness, eradicate graffiti, reduce crime and traffic congestion – working as a team to make Santa Barbara neighborhoods the best that they can be and where necessary, take back our neighborhoods. Neighborhood Watch programs will be encouraged, annual neighborhood clean-up operations will be launched, and high neighborhood pride will be our standard. The goal is to create a system for proactive change, rather than reactive remedy where residents work together with City staff to identify neighborhood needs and realistic solutions.

The first step is to identify and recruit residents willing to lead and help motivate other neighbors to partner with the City to improve their neighborhoods. As part of this process, City staff will serve as a resource to organize quarterly neighborhood meetings for residents to:

- Learn about neighborhood services provided by the City
- Learn about the CDBG funding process and how to give input on yearly requests
- Meet staff from City departments that have an integral part in maintaining their neighborhood
- Assist in identifying neighborhood needs (e.g. cross walks, street lights, capital improvement projects)

- Give input on and provide status on City projects
- Provide a forum for ongoing interaction between the City and residents

Residents also will be challenged to take a “hands-on” approach by getting involved in the daily upkeep and maintenance through the programs and processes that the City already has in place. As a group, residents could rotate assignments for graffiti removal on various blocks and receive free clean-up supplies, plan a community clean-up, and ask for monthly sign-ups to make reports to various city hotlines (e.g. graffiti, potholes, illegal dumping, abandoned shopping carts) as listed on the Quick-Reference City Telephone Numbers handout.

By educating residents on City operations, processes and services and creating working relationships to identify needs by importance to the neighborhood, we hope to develop a sense of neighborhood ownership and foster a sense of what all of us can do *together* to create more cohesive, clean and safe neighborhoods.

E. Three Sets of Targeted High Priorities

This year the NITF singled out three sets of priority areas for special attention. The goal is to tackle at least one target area per month in places with ongoing or recurring problems. Priorities will include:

- Public Right-of-Way (Attachment 12)
- Building and Zoning /Code Enforcement (Attachment 13)
- Parks and Creeks (Attachment 14)

F. Full-Time Code Enforcement Officer

The Community Development Department hired a new building inspector dedicated to code enforcement. The building inspector will work with the Neighborhood Improvement Task Force to focus on properties that show evidence of decline and a need for maintenance, particularly residences where life-safety conditions and zoning violations are readily visible. Such conditions include accumulation of trash, debris, overgrown vegetation, inoperable vehicles, exposed electrical wiring, improperly vented and illegally installed water heaters, and other unhealthy and/or unsafe living conditions.

The Code Enforcement position will coordinate with all City departments to optimize efforts, and work with neighborhood organizations to identify and resolve concerns.

G. Partnership with Union Pacific Railroad

In the next fiscal year, we anticipate a new memorandum of understanding between the City of Santa Barbara and Union Pacific. We are projecting that Union Pacific will commit \$72,000 during the 2008 fiscal year to tackle safety, trespassing, graffiti, dumping, illegal encampments, and other problems along Santa Barbara's railroad corridor. We also are planning to conduct 10 joint clean-up projects along the 5.9-mile railroad corridor.

H. Partnership with Caltrans

Relying on past successes and a strong partnership, we will continue working hand in glove with Caltrans to bring our staffs together to jointly tackle problems that overlap our jurisdictions.

V. CONCLUSION

The first phase of the Neighborhood Improvement Program has been successful. Neighborhoods are looking better and conditions have improved. City Departments are achieving positive results by working as well-coordinated teams.

- TV Hill has been cleaned and is secure
- Alisos Street at 101, a future site of a 101 interchange, has been cleaned and improved
- The dilapidated and unsafe housing conditions at Deluxe Trailer Park have been eliminated
- Punta Gorda and South Voluntario Streets now have sidewalks, curbs, gutters, and improved lighting
- We now have a financial agreement with Union Pacific to clean-up, maintain, and improve safety conditions along the railroad corridor that travels through our City
- The working relationship with Caltrans is as strong as ever. Caltrans has been a true partner in our clean-up efforts

In the next phase, we plan to be more proactive in taking care of conditions seen during City Tour II. Anticipate more accomplishments going forward:

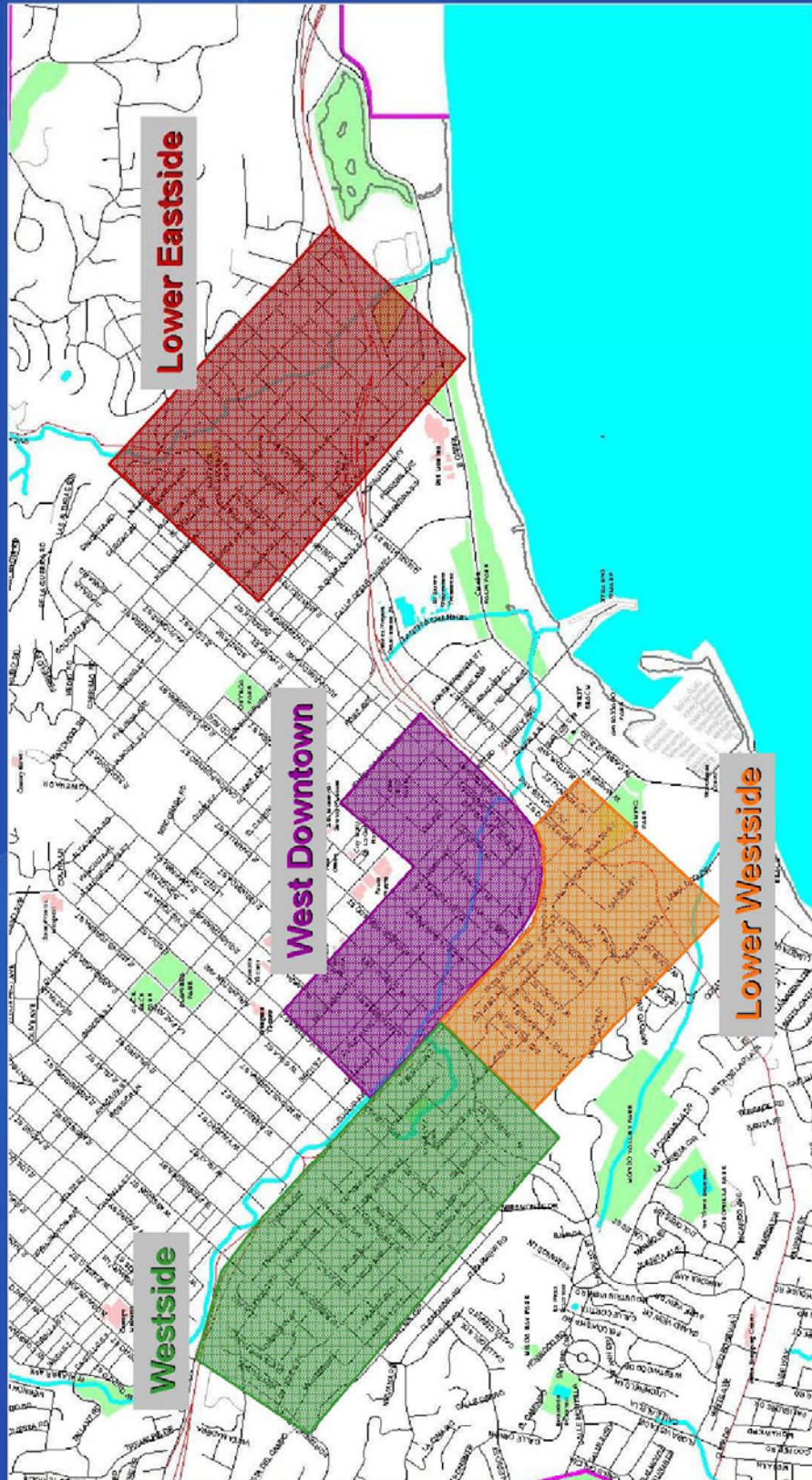
- The Adopt-A-Block Program will be central to forging an alliance with neighborhoods and residents
- The targeted high priority projects will help us zero-in on recurring and major problems
- A newly hired code enforcement officer dedicated to the Neighborhood Improvement Task Force will focus on properties showing decline and a need for maintenance

VI. ATTACHMENTS

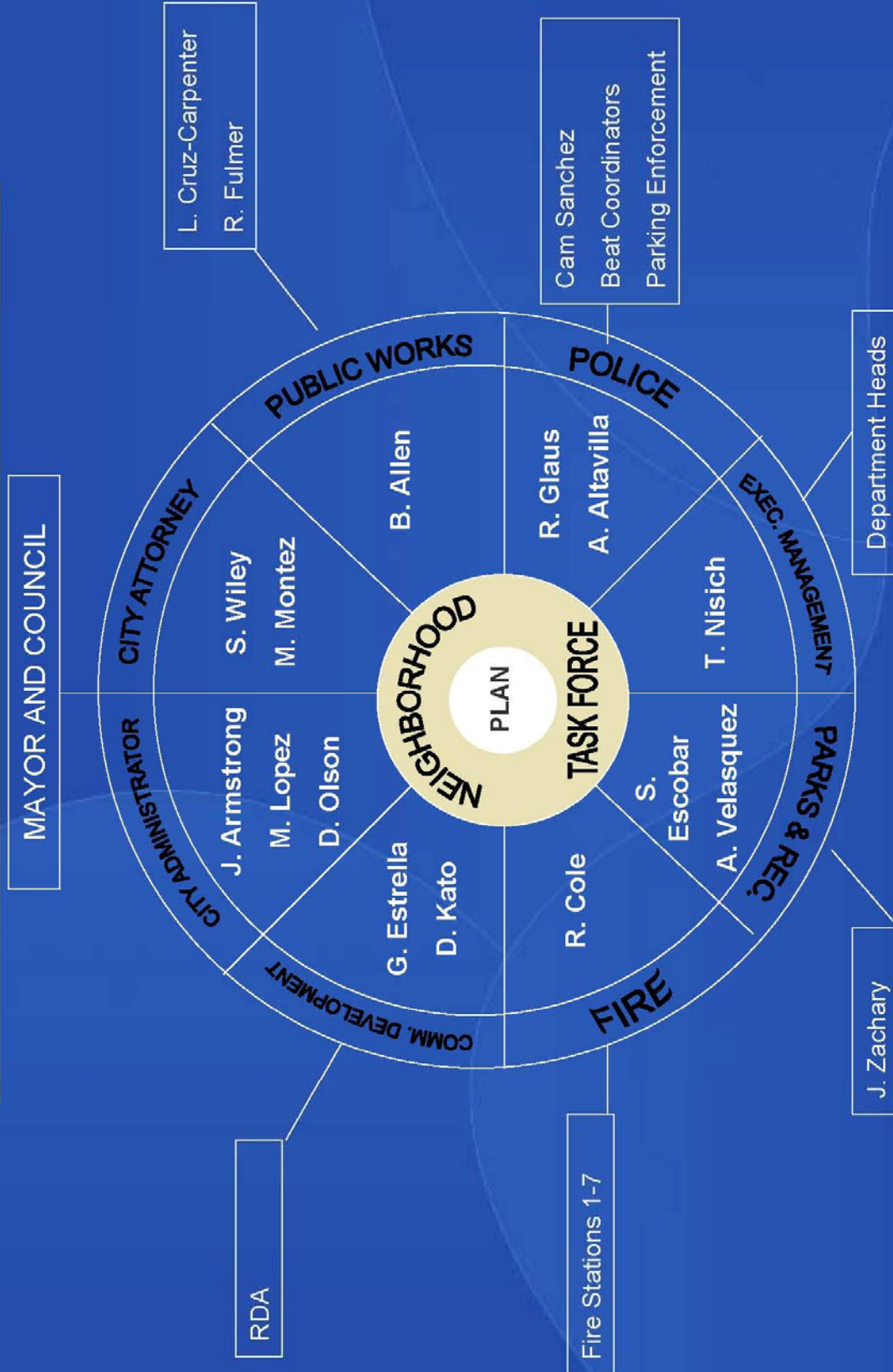
1. Targeted Neighborhoods
2. Membership of the Neighborhood Improvement Task Force
3. Examples of significant code enforcement cases
 - Deluxe Trailer Park
 - 2510 Mesa School Lane
4. Graffiti truck
5. Graffiti removal activity - Fiscal Year 2006-07
6. Graffiti surveillance operations and arrests - news release
7. Storke Placita wall
8. Illegal encampments
9. Quick-Reference City Telephone Numbers
10. Examples of Community Development Block Grant-funded Projects
 - Yanonali, Rancheria, and Pilgrim Terrace Community Gardens
 - Punta Gorda and Voluntario Streets
 - Coronel Street Linkage
11. Targeted Neighborhood Capital Projects from Other Programs
12. Public Right-of-Way Targeted Projects
13. Building and Zoning Enforcement Targeted Projects
14. Parks and Creeks Targeted Projects

Targeted Neighborhood

Priority Neighborhoods



Neighborhood Improvement Task Force



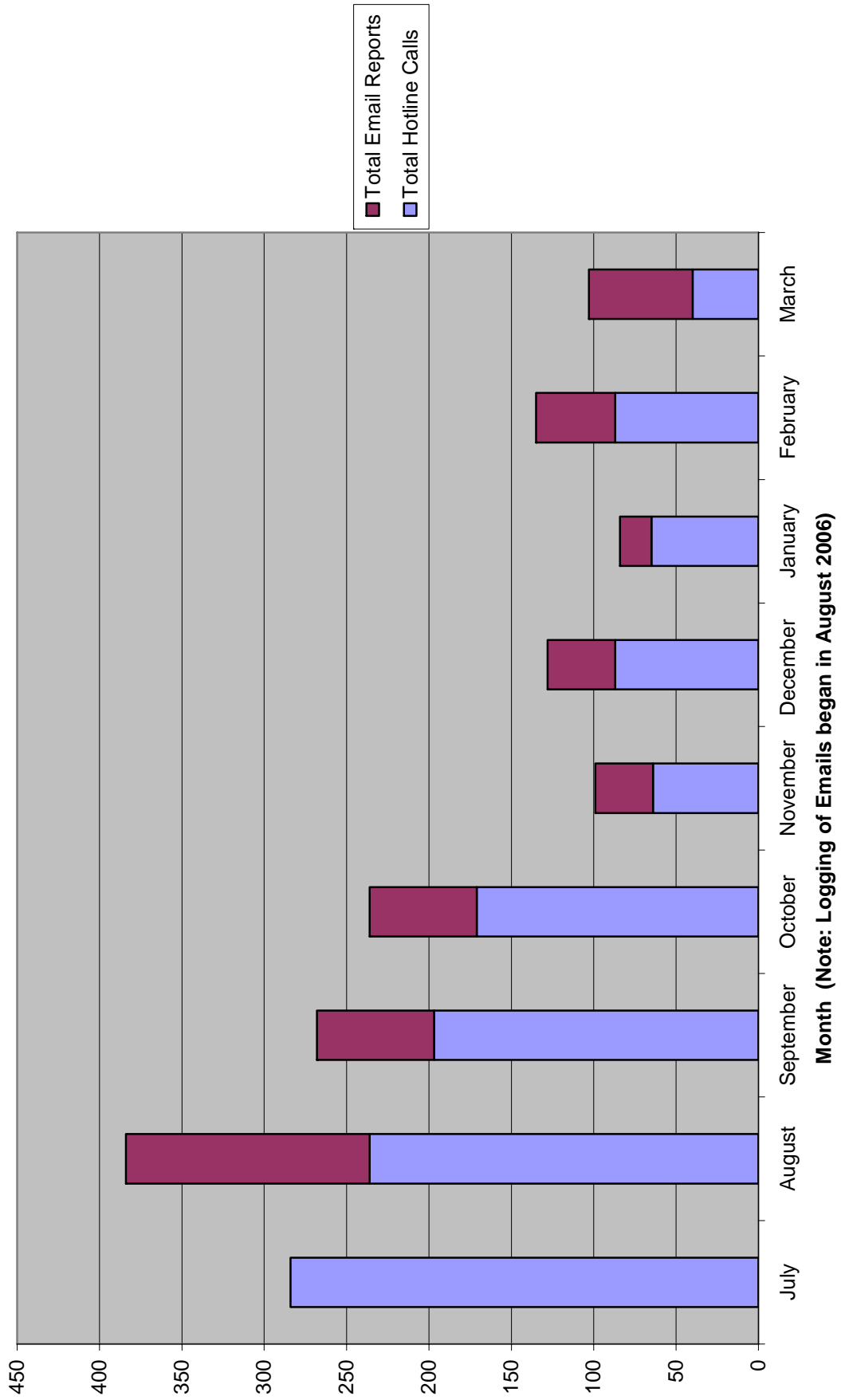
ATTACHMENT 3
Mesa School Lane



ATTACHMENT 4



Graffiti Hotline Calls and Emails Received Per Month in FY 07



(Text from Police Department News Release, issued October 27, 2006)

GRAFITTI TAGGERS AND GANG MEMBERS ARRESTED

Seven Arrests, 27 Locations Targeted

SANTA BARBARA, CA – 10/27/2006 – In recent months, the rise in Graffiti and gang vandalism crime has alarmed property owners, merchants, and City officials alike. The reason for the increase is as senseless as the graffiti itself. In the last week, SBPD has arrested seven suspects connected to graffiti damage at 27 different locations.

Last night (10/26/06) at 10:50 pm, an officer spotted five young men riding bicycles on lower State Street. They matched the description of five suspects seen spray-painting gang graffiti earlier that night. The officer attempted to stop the group of bicyclists, who eluded him by riding the wrong way down a one-way street. What ensued was the real-life drama of numerous officers chasing multiple suspects through residential neighborhoods. The suspect group scattered in all directions; some riding through back alleys and others abandoning their bicycles and jumping over fences. Determined officers chased the suspects through the 500 to 700 blocks of De La Vina, Bath, Castillo, and cross streets of Ortega and Cota Streets. In some cases, officers on foot chased bicyclists over several blocks, using their radios to guide additional officers to where suspects were fleeing. Meanwhile, veteran police dispatchers turned the chaotic pursuit into an organized team effort. In the end, all five suspects were taken into custody. David Anthony Martinez, and Raul Javier Torres, both aged 19, were arrested for felony vandalism, resisting arrest, and committing a crime in furtherance of a known street gang. Their bail is \$20,000. Three juveniles aged 15, 16, and 17, were arrested for resisting arrest, violation of probation, and prowling. They were booked at Juvenile Hall. The locations tagged with gang graffiti include Santa Barbara High School, El Puente School, Eastside Neighborhood Park, and businesses at 700 N. Quarantina Street. Police believe the motive was to 'disrespect' a rival gang. The damage is estimated at well over \$1,000 dollars.

In another case, early last Sunday morning at 1:10 a.m., police arrested Juan Joel Chavez, age 19 and Raymond Anthony Padilla, age 18 for committing felony vandalism to numerous downtown businesses. A good Samaritan was following Chavez and Padilla as they walked up the west side of State Street. The witness watched as they ducked into alcove after alcove, pausing to sweep a sharpened metal tool across display windows. The citizen witness used a cell phone to call police. The suspects were stopped and arrested at State and Anapamu Streets. The investigation revealed that 23 different State Street businesses had fresh graffiti tagging deeply etched into plate glass display windows. The letters etched into the glass are consistent with vandalism by organized tagging crews. Both Chavez and Padilla were booked for felony vandalism and conspiracy to commit vandalism; bail set at \$20,000. A partial list of damaged businesses include: Barnes and Noble, Boon Mee, Pierre LaFond's, Rite Aid, Russ' Camera, and Long's Drug Store. The damage is estimated at several thousands of dollars.

ATTACHMENT 7
Storke Placita Wall



Existing wall



Chamfered edge

ATTACHMENT 7
Storke Placita Wall



ATTACHMENT 8
Illegal Encampments



ATTACHMENT 8
Illegal Encampments



ATTACHMENT 8
Illegal Encampments



ATTACHMENT 8
Illegal Encampments





City of Santa Barbara Quick Reference Numbers

HELP KEEP SANTA BARBARA CLEAN & BEAUTIFUL

Abandoned Vehicles on Public property	897-2413
ABOP (Antifreeze, Batteries, Oil, & Paint)	
Information Hotline	564-5687
Airport Noise Complaint Hotline	967-1900
Animal Control	9-1-1 or 963-1513
Code Enforcement	564-5669
Creeks – Dumping/Water Quality	897-2688
Fire Department (24 hr.)	965-5254
Graffiti	897-2513
Hazardous Waste	564-5674
Information – City Hall	963-0611
Leaf Blower Complaints (PD Dispatch)	897-2410
Noise Abatement (PD Dispatch)	897-2410
Park Ranger	897-1941
Police Department:	
24 hr Non-Emergency	897-2300
24 hr Dispatch	897-2410
Pothole & Sidewalk Hotline	897-2630
RADON Information	(800) 745-7236
Recycling Hotline	564-5587
Sand Bags	564-5411
Sewer Problems (Water/Streets)	564-5413
Shopping Cart Hotline	(800) 252-4613
Street Lights (24 hr recording)	564-5416
Street Sweeping	897-1903
Storm Drain Maint. Hotline	564-5458
Traffic Signals (Public Works)	564-5417
Trash Complaints	564-5413
Tree Problems	564-5434
Vector Control (Rodents, mosquitoes)	560-7510
Water Problems:	
Broken mains, wasting water	564-5413
Conservation (audit requests)	564-5460
Zoning Enforcement	897-2676
*So. CA Edison (24-hr. Dispatch)	(800) 655-4555

Revised: December, 2006



Guía de teléfonos importantes Municipio de Santa Bárbara

AYUDE A MANTENER A SANTA BARBARA LIMPIA Y HERMOSA

Hable a estos teléfonos para quejas, informes o servicios relacionados con:

Oficinas Municipales – "City Hall"	963-0611
Departamento de Bomberos (24 horas)	
Emergencia	9-1-1
24 horas – no emergencia	965-5254
Departamento de Policía	
Emergencia	9-1-1
24 Horas – No emergencia	897-2300
24 Horas – Desplazamiento de ayuda	897-2410
Hoyos en calles y banquetas,	897-2630
Ruido (Departamento de Policía)	897-2410
Sopladores de hojas	897-2410
Ruidos del Aeropuerto	967-1900
Vehículos Abandonados en la vía pública	897-2413
Control de Animales	9-1-1 or 963-1513
Sacos de arena	564-5411
ABOP – Desperdicio de anticongelante, baterías, aceite, y pintura	564-5687
Desperdicios en los arroyos/mejoramiento de la calidad del agua	897-2658
Basura – quejas	564-5413
Desperdicios peligrosos	564-5674
RADÓN	(800) 745-7236
Reciclaje	564-5587
"Graffiti"	897-2513
Guardabosques – "Park Rangers"	897-1941
Reparación de calles y banquetas	897-2630
Conservación/Problemas de agua/Drenajes	
Líneas principales, obstruidas o dañadas	564-5413
Drenajes de aguas negras (sewer)	564-5413
Líneas de drenajes pluviales	564-5458
Carretillas de compras abandonadas	(800) 252-4613
Barrida de Calles	897-1903
Postes de luces (24 hours)	564-5416
Señales de tráfico – Obras Públicas	564-5417
Árboles - dañados/problemas con	564-5434
Roedores y mosquitos – problemas	560-7510
Aplicación del Código de Construcción	897-2678
Reglamentos de zona	564-5669

Grant Funded Projects

City of Santa Barbara Community Gardens Renovation Program

- Promote healthy life styles and family nutrition
- Teach and encourage pesticide-free, organic gardening
- Provide outdoor recreation activity in crowded neighborhoods.
- Enhance community-building
- Support neighborhood preservation



BEFORE: Rancheria Gardens



AFTER: Rancheria Gardens



BEFORE: Pilgrim Terrace Gardens



AFTER: Pilgrim Terrace Gardens



BEFORE: Yanonali Gardens



AFTER: Yanonali Gardens



Voluntario/Punta Gorda:







Cornel Street Linkage











Target Neighborhood Capital Projects from Other City Programs

Creek Clean-Up Projects

- **BOHNETT PARK/OLD MISSION CREEK:** The Creeks and Parks Divisions sponsored a neighborhood clean-up event at Bohnett Park in August 2006. Key concerns included increasing litter and graffiti, disruptive alcohol drinking and using the creek as an outdoor latrine. The project was one of a series of creek and beach clean-up events with neighborhood participation.
- **FIGUEROA STREET ROW/OLD MISSION CREEK PROJECT:** The Creeks Division recently completed a detailed concept plan to develop a storm water management and habitat enhancement project within Old Mission Creek at West Figueroa. The work effort to complete the design included individual meetings with adjacent landowners and public meetings and workshops. Our next step is to assess easements and potential long-term water quality performance.
- **SYCAMORE CREEK REHABILITATION AT CACIQUE STREET:** The Creeks Division continued the restoration of Sycamore Creek at Cacique, Soledad and Liberty Streets in summer 2006 with a number of community work days and clean-up events. The Division also worked with Looking Good Santa Barbara to include this area in the Eastside neighborhood clean-up day on August 26, 2006.

Public Works Capital Projects

- **MILPAS STREET BEAUTIFICATION PROJECT (\$1,022,538)**
The work for the Milpas Street Beautification Project consists of lighting and amenity upgrades along North Milpas between Quinientos Street and Cannon Perdido Street to enhance pedestrian travel and safety, and is consistent with the scope of work set by Council during funding allocation years. The project includes pedestrian lighting, sidewalk repair, bus stop upgrades, upgraded railing, new street trees and tree grates, painting poles and utility boxes, and curbs bulb-outs.

In the second quarter of Fiscal Year 2007, the contractor constructed foundations for pedestrian lights, placed electrical conduits, hand railings and holiday lighting receptacles, installed tree grates, painted utility boxes, constructed sidewalk improvements and curb drains, planted trees, and placed MTD benches, trash cans and sign poles. The project is scheduled to be completed in the third quarter of Fiscal Year 2007.

- SYCAMORE CREEK AT 101 – Flood Flow Capacity Study

The current Sycamore Creek Bridge at the 101 Freeway is about 30 feet wide. During the winter storms of 1995 the neighborhood immediately upstream of this bridge flooded such that homes were inundated with water and mud.

The proposed Highway 101 Improvements include widening this bridge to about 84 feet to allow a water flow of approximately 3,000 cubic feet per second. This change will help reduce neighborhood flooding. Additional channel improvements upstream and downstream will be planned to take full advantage of the bridge widening to maximize the reduction of flooding in the Lower Eastside neighborhood. The Highway 101 Improvements are scheduled to begin construction early next year and could take three to four years to complete. The bridge work is anticipated to begin about one year after the start of the Improvements.

Redevelopment Agency Projects

- CHAPALA STREET IMPROVEMENTS (\$1,068,000 - Redevelopment Agency Funds)

The Design Guidelines for Chapala Street have been developed for improvements in the public right of way for Chapala Street from the 101 freeway up to Carrillo Street. This area is experiencing tremendous growth now that State Street is primarily built out. The guidelines are to help the private developer and City staff in formulating a cohesive design as private and public projects move forward. The total cost of the design phase was \$75,000.

The construction phase of the streetscape improvements is underway. Improvements are being made to two intersections, Gutierrez and De la Guerra Streets. These include several bulb-outs of the sidewalk to shorten the pedestrian crossings and new brick crosswalks. The construction costs are estimated to be: \$993,000.

- LOUISE LOWRY DAVIS CENTER REMODEL (\$650,000 - Redevelopment Agency Funds)

Completed in March 2006, this project involved interior and exterior improvements to this important downtown senior center. Improvements included remodeling and upgrades to existing restrooms, improved ADA accessibility throughout the building, upgraded electrical and plumbing systems, upgraded kitchen and meeting areas and numerous aesthetic improvements.

- PLAZA VERA CRUZ RENOVATION: \$352,000 in Redevelopment Agency Funds

This project, in its design phase, is intended to support the renovation of this important downtown City Park with landscaping and handicap accessibility.

- SPENCER ADAMS PARKING LOT IMPROVEMENTS: \$186,300 in Redevelopment Agency Funds
This project is in its conceptual design phase. The intended project involves various parking lot and site improvements at the Spencer Adams lawn bowling center adjacent to the Louise Lowry Davis Center.
- WEST DOWNTOWN PEDESTRIAN IMPROVEMENTS: \$3,100,000 in Redevelopment Agency Funds
This project is in its final design phase. The project will improve the West Downtown Neighborhood with a series of capital improvements – the two primary projects are improvements to the Anapamu and Ortega Street pedestrian corridors. Proposed corridor improvements include upgrading pedestrian amenities such as sidewalk replacement where necessary, general landscaping improvements where appropriate, and the possibility of additional pedestrian lighting. Improvement of these two corridors will strengthen the pedestrian connection between the West Downtown and Downtown. Improvements to Westside Center Park will also be included.
- MISSION CREEK FLOOD CONTROL PROJECT ENHANCEMENTS: \$2,475,000 in Redevelopment Agency Funds
These funds will augment the Army Corps of Engineers and County Flood Control District funded project for Lower Mission Creek. Enhancements could include acquisition of property along the creek for open space and pocket parks, landscaping, aesthetic treatment of historic bridges and pedestrian paths.

Total: In excess of \$ 9 million dollars

Public Right of Way Targeted Projects
Public Works Department

1. Union pacific Right of Way - 13 zones have been identified and monthly clean p will be done with the assistance of Union Pacific;
2. Anapamu footbridge - Pick up litter, empty trash can, sweep (using deodorizer), check and remove graffiti;
3. Coronel/Ladera/McKinley school area - Empty trash cans, pick up litter, check and remove graffiti;
4. Butterfly Lane/Highway 101 Pedestrian Tunnel - Pick up litter, empty trash cans, sweep as necessary, check & remove graffiti;
5. Ortega Foot Bridge - Pick up litter, empty trash cans, sweep as necessary, check & remove graffiti;
6. Junipero footbridge - Pick up litter, empty trash cans, sweep as necessary, check & remove graffiti;
7. Cacique - Pick up litter, empty trash cans, sweep as necessary, check & remove graffiti;
8. Carrillo underpass - Clean as necessary;
9. Mission underpass - Clean as necessary;
10. Calle Caesar Chavez underpass - Clean as necessary;
11. San Pascual between Mission and Coronel – Graffiti.

Zoning/Code Enforcement Targeted Projects
Community Development Department

1. 222 S. Calle Cesar Chavez - Fess Parker Hotel site "clean-up";
2. 1113-1121 De La Vina Street - Various residential units that are deteriorated and not maintained. Currently an active enforcement case;
3. 917 Alphonse - Substandard conditions and drug house;
4. 1022 Carpinteria St. - Substantial junk, trash, debris;
5. 2. South Quarantina - Industrial property with substantial junk piles;
6. 1025 E. Cota St. - Vacant lot filled with tall weeds, a fire hazard;
7. 1035 Cacique St. - Single family dwelling, substandard conditions and eye sore;
8. 1410 Almond - Boarded up single family dwelling with substandard conditions;
9. 1232 Chino St. - Deteriorated and substandard single family dwelling. An eye sore;
10. 529 W. Carrillo St. - Apartment building in need of paint, stucco repair, window screens and general maintenance;
11. 924 San Pascual - Apartment building in need of paint, stucco repair, window screens and general maintenance;
12. 815 – 817 W. Arrellaga - Two single family dwellings open and accessible, needs rehabilitation;
13. Deluxe Trailer Park - Property maintenance, vacant trailers;
14. Alisos @ 101 Freeway - Property maintenance.

Parks and Creeks Targeted Projects
Parks and Recreation Department

1. Oak Park - Illegal camping and transient use;
2. Bohnett Park - Impacts from day use of park and Old Mission Creek by day laborers and juveniles. Illegal camping, resulting in trash, human feces, graffiti;
3. Mission Creek at de la Vina and Haley - Impacts from day use of the creek and neighborhood dumping, including trash and human feces;
4. Mission Creek at Bath & Cota - Impacts from day use of the creek and neighborhood dumping, including trash and human feces;
5. Cabrillo Ball Field - Drug dealing, impacts from transients, alcohol use;
6. Dwight Murphy - RV use, impacts from transients, alcohol use;
7. Pershing Park - Illegal dumping, transients, alcohol use;
8. Chase Palm Park - Impacts from transients (near Fess Parker site);
9. Laguna Channel - North of Chase Palm Park. Impacts from day laborers and transients including illegal camping, human feces and trash;
10. Ortega Park - Drug use, gang use, impacts from transients and day users.